AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1.-18. (Canceled)

19. (New) Process for bis silylating an acylamide, the process comprising subjecting an amide bearing a group Rf (perfluoroalkyl) to a trialkylsilyl halide in the presence of a base whose carbon number is not more than about 10 and whose halide, or hydrohalide, is insoluble and in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of hydrocarbons, silanes, fluorohydrocarbons and mixtures thereof, wherein the solvent has a relative dielectric constant of not more than 5, and wherein the solvent has a boiling point, at atmospheric pressure, of not more than about 100°C.

20. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the solvent is such that water has a solubility therein of only 1% at most.

21. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the solvent is such that the reaction mixture fully dissolves the silylamide.

22. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the solvent has a freezing point, at atmospheric pressure, of not more than 0°C.

23. (New) Process according to claim 22, wherein the freezing point is not more than about -10°C.

24. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the base is an organic base.

25. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the base is a non-silylable organic base.

26. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the base is an organic base whose conjugate acid is not silylable.

27. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the base is a pnictine selected from the group consisting of a hydrocarbon-based trivalent element from column VB of the Periodic Table and a hydrocarbon-based element from column V of the Periodic Table.

28. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the base is an organic base which has not more than about 10 carbon atoms per basic function.

29. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the base is an organic base which has not more than about 8 carbon atoms per basic function.

30. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the base is an amine.

31. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the amide has the following formula:

$$Rf\text{-}CO\text{-}NH_{(2-x)}\text{-}[Si(R_1)(R_2)R_3)]_x$$

- with x representing 0 or 1;

- with R_1, R_2 and R_3 being alkyl groups containing from 1 to 10 carbon atoms, optionally connected to one of the other groups R_1, R_2 and R_3;

- with Rf (perfluoroalkyl) meaning radicals of formula:

$$-(CX_2)_p\text{-}EWG$$

where the identical or different groups X represent a fluorine or a radical of formula C_nF_{2n+1} where n is an integer not greater than 5,

where p represents an integer not greater than 2;

where EWG represents an electron-withdrawing group whose functions, if any, are inert under the reaction conditions.

32. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the amide is selected from the group consisting of a pentafluoropropanoic acid amide and a trifluoroacetic acid amide.

33. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the solvent is selected from the group consisting of aliphatic hydrocarbons and mixtures thereof.

34. (New) Process according to claim 19, wherein the silylation is a disilylation and occurs in the absence of hexamethyldislazane.

35. (New) Process for bis silylating an acylamide, the process comprising subjecting an amide bearing a group Rf (perfluoroalkyl) to a trialkylsilyl halide in the presence of a base whose carbon number is not more than about 10 and whose halide, or hydrohalide, is insoluble and in the presence of a solvent selected from the group consisting of silanes, fluorohydrocarbons and mixtures thereof, wherein the solvent has a dielectric constant at not more than 5.